

The Elba Clipper

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

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NUMBER 36

Questions surround ex-chief's hearing

By Ferrin Cox
Publisher

Many questions have been asked by Elba citizens since the beginning of talks of a hearing on Elba Mayor Ricky Haywood's efforts to terminate former police chief Freddie Hanchey.

The words "Due Process" surface when questions are put to professionals who are learned in the area of dealing with public employees and personnel problems.

The Alabama constitution states that in all municipalities, the council may provide for a police chief. The council also has the duty to specifically designate the duties of each office. That is in Section 11-43-5.

The council can delegate some powers of appointment to the Mayor, but Elba ordinances don't do this. In fact they specifically reserve this power to the mayor and council acting jointly. (Elba City Code §2-29)

Section 11-43-160, Code of Alabama, 1975, does state that any per-

son appointed to office in any city or town may, for cause, after a hearing, be removed by the officer making the appointment.

The meaning of that section is that if the city council has the authority to appoint, then the city council must retain the power to terminate, and then only after a hearing.

This has been in the Alabama Code for many years. An Attorney General opinion on December 13, 1974 affirmed this fact.

The Alabama Supreme Court has ruled that even in cases where the mayor has authority to hire and fire an employee, the mayor must grant a hearing to the appointee before the dismissal, unless the appointee waives this right to a hearing.

Again, Section 11-43-81 of the Code of Alabama states that the employee must be granted a hearing, before the dismissal becomes permanent.

The Alabama Code further states that to remove an employee (police officer, etc.) takes a 2/3 vote of the

entire city council, including the mayor. That is Section 11-43-160. Reading this section indicates that termination of Freddie Hanchey from the Elba police force will take a vote of at least four city officials (city council and mayor).

Elected officials in Elba, and prior city employees, have either been unaware of these laws or chose not to invoke them. However this doesn't make such laws invalid today.

A 1956 Attorney General opinion pointed out that any council member (including the mayor) with any bias must not themselves be a part of this impartial body. This impartiality clause became a continuing sticking point in the first hours of the Freddie Hanchey hearing and is yet to be resolved.

The rights of employees are continually ruled on in state and federal courts. By their very nature, the federal rulings have more impact.

Alabama has long had what was commonly called an "at will" employment. That means a person can work a job as long as the employer wanted that person to work that job. The employer had only to want (or will) that person to leave and the employee is fired.

However, court records show that for at least the past 20 years, the federal courts have continued to narrow the right of the employer to fire employees. In fact municipal employees have been found by the courts to "own" their jobs, unless they mess up. All the above is based on several basic items, including involvement in retirement plans, absence of specific contracts explaining the employee is temporary or for a specific time.

The courts continue to broaden the 5th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It states "that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The courts are often ruling that by

Please See CHIEF, Page 3

Special grand jury indicts Burney on 2 counts of capital murder

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

Meeting in special session on Thursday, March 25, a Coffee County grand jury, Elba Division handed down one indictment.

The grand jury formally indicted Willie Fred Burney, 31, of Route One, Jack, AL, with two offenses of capital murder.

Burney appeared before Judge Terry L. Butts in Circuit Court on March 25, the same day of his indictment, and was arraigned. He entered a plea of not guilty.

The defendant was arrested on Tuesday, February 16, in connection with the shooting death of two young boys.

The two youngsters, Quenton An-

derson Burney, age 2, and Kerwin Donnell Horstead, age 5, died of multiple gunshot wounds. The shooting occurred on Elba residence located on Roosevelt Drive in Kennedy Estates.

Burney has been held without bond since his arrest shortly after the shooting took place. He was apprehended in a wooded area near his residence located in the Victoria Community.

Judge Butts again denied Burney bond and ordered that he remain in custody. The judge further ordered that Burney stand trial on the 13th of April, 1993.

Should Burney be convicted, each offense is punishable by either life in prison without parole or death by electrocution.



BRIDGE OUT - DETOUR AHEAD... This has become a very popular sign in Elba these days. The state has awarded the contract for widening AL Hwy. 189 (the Kinston Highway) from Elba south to Kinston and the work has already begun. Included in the contract is the replacement of the bridge which crosses Moore's Creek just past the Brookdale Subdivision. Residence who live on the Kinston Highway south of the bridge and in the Clark Subdivision will be taking the long way around to town for several weeks. Local traffic will detour as follows: U.S. Hwy 84W, AL 166, AL 141, Co. Rd. 404, and back to AL 189. Residents located further south and through traffic will detour as follows: U.S. Hwy. 84W, AL 166, AL 141, and back to AL 189 in the Basin Community. The original plan call for temporary bridges to be constructed at the bridge replacement site but plans were changed when it became unsafe to do so. A completion date was first set at July 30 but estimates are that the project will be completed sooner than the projected date. Couch Construction of Dothan has the roadwork contract, Grady Ralls & way. Further information concerning the projects may be obtained by calling the project engineer's office in Samson, AL. The telephone number is (205) 898-2987.

County commission satisfies grand jury

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

The Coffee County Commission during their last meeting, Monday, March 22, was presented with a subpoena from the Enterprise Division grand jury.

On Tuesday, March 23, the commissioners appeared before the grand jury. This was the same 18-member jury which met in December of last year and recommended that a new Enterprise Courthouse be built.

In its December report filed with Circuit Judge Gary McAliley, numerous problems with the existing building were cited. The body also stated that the upper floors were fire hazards because proper escape routes were not provided.

As a result of the December grand jury's report, a state fire marshal was called in to inspect the entire facility. The fire marshal cited in his inspection report several problems which needed to be addressed to bring the building up to code.

He recommended the rewiring of the building, closing of the fourth floor, construction of a fire escape from the third floor, replacement of gas heaters, and a general house cleaning.

The commissioners took action concerning the fire marshal's report in their Monday's meeting prior to their appearing before the grand jury on Tuesday (March 23).

In their report filed with Judge McAliley on Tuesday (March 23), the jury stated, "We find the Coffee County Commission is making a good faith effort to correct the deficiencies listed in the January 8, 1993, Fire Marshal's inspection of the Enterprise Division courthouse."

"We also find that the commission did not receive the Fire Marshal's report until just a few weeks ago and has begun corrective action."

The estimated cost of meeting the requirements set forth in the fire marshal's report is \$6,500. Based on

a preliminary plan by an architect, a new Enterprise Courthouse will cost in excess of \$3.2 million. The price tag of an addition to the Elba Courthouse is estimated at \$1.8 million.

A public hearing on a special property tax to fund the proposed construction has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Friday, April 2, at New Brockton.

The hearing will be held in the commission meeting room at

the Farm Center Complex.

The Enterprise grand jury's report concluded with the following: "We call on subsequent grand juries to monitor the progress of plans to build a new courthouse in Enterprise and recommend any further action as needed. We feel the construction of a new courthouse to be the highest priority in the Enterprise Division of Coffee County."

Special New Brockton Town Council meeting held to act on Rehab Grant

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

In a special called meeting on Tuesday, March 23, the New Brockton City Council took action toward receiving another Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

The council members signed a resolution allowing city officials to proceed in preparing the application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Alabama Department of Economic Affairs (ADECA).

Should the town be successful in getting its application approved, it will make the second time a grant of this type has been received.

Should the grant be approved, approximately 35 homes will be repaired. The area in which the homes are located will be south of McKinnon Street (U.S. Hwy. 84) and west of Ansley Street.

According to City Clerk Linda Dillow, "The funds, should ADECA approved the town's application, will not become available until late Fall (October or November) of this year."

Dillow stated that should wait until they are notified by public notice before they begin inquiring about applying for the funds.

The Town's portion of the grant will be to supply \$1,000 in matching

funds. The plan for housing rehabilitation in New Brockton divides the town into four sections. Town officials hope to receive enough grants in the future to completely renovate all the houses which qualify.

Dillow said the Town is eligible to apply for this type CDBG grant every two years. Plans are already underway to apply for a third housing rehab grant in 1995.

State troopers seek passage of stronger DUI legislation

Legislation to strengthen Alabama's DUI statutes will be introduced during the 1993 Regular Session of the Legislature, according to Col. Ned W. McHenry, Public Safety director.

Provisions of the legislation were discussed by the bill's sponsor, Sen. Walter Owens of Centerville, and McHenry during a news conference in Montgomery Monday, February 1.

Please See DUI, Page 3



ZOAR COMMUNITY CHURCH CATCHES FIRE...but butts from the Elba, Zion Chapel, and Five Star Fire Departments saved the 100-year-old church from total destruction. Firemen were alerted to the fire at 6:55 p.m. Saturday evening and fire truck arrived on the scene at 7:07 p.m. The church is located approximately 11 mile north of Elba. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time and damage to the building was estimated to be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

HAPPENINGS

PUBLIC HEARING. The Coffee County Commission will hold a public hearing on Friday, April 2, at 9:00 a.m. The hearing will be held in the commission chamber at the Farm Complex in New Brockton. The purpose of the hearing will be to hear public comments on a proposed special property tax to be used to construct a new courthouse in Enterprise and an addition to the Elba Courthouse.

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING. There will be a special meeting of the Coffee County Commission on Monday, April 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the commission chamber in New Brockton. Commissioners will be meeting with State Representative Jimmy Holley to ask that a special election be held. The purpose of the election will be to allow the people to vote on a special property tax to finance the construction of a new courthouse in Enterprise and an addition to the courthouse in Elba.

MISS COFFEE COUNTY PAGEANT. A Miss Coffee County and Little Miss Coffee County Pageant will be held 7:00 p.m. Saturday, May 15, 1993, at the Elba High School Auditorium. The deadline for entering the pageant is April 7, 1993. The pageant is being sponsored by the Elba PTO. For additional information, contact Carol Laney, pageant chairman at 897-5277.

Coffee County grand jury indicts Ft. Rucker pediatrician

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

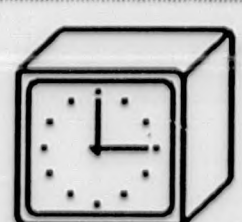
A Coffee County grand jury - Enterprise Division in session last week indicted a Ft. Rucker pediatrician on first-degree sodomy.

Army Major David Clay Crosley, 33, a physician in the Pediatric Clinic at Lyster Army Community Hospital at Ft. Rucker, if convicted, faces a prison sentence of not less than ten years and a fine of up to \$20,000.

Crosley was arrested March 2 and charged with sodomy in the first degree. He was later released on a \$20,000 bond. His bond was continued after he was formally indicted by the grand jury last week.

Please see JURY, Page 3

IT'S TIME TO SPRING AHEAD!



Don't Forget To
Turn Your Clock
Ahead One Hour Before Going
To Bed Saturday Night April 3rd.

Daylight Savings Time Will Begin
At 2 a.m. Sunday Morning April 4th

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

No date has been officially set to continue the Freddie Hanchey dismissal hearing before the Elba City Council. However, lawyers in the case indicate they are trying to assemble the interested parties on Wednesday, April 7. With some principals being out of town due to the AEA holidays in Alabama schools, it will probably be early next week before anyone knows for sure exactly when the hearing will resume. The city council is scheduled to meet next Monday night and it will probably be then before it is known if all council members can attend on that date. Otherwise, who knows?

As if the mess up streets in Mulberry Heights were not enough of a problem, now the Kingston Highway bridge is out. Workers were preparing a bypass to keep traffic flowing while they rebuild the bridge, but either their work or time allowed the bridge to begin collapsing. Therefore they just went straight to work on the bridge and it will be closed for several weeks until the new structure can be completed.

We don't want to be in a position of supporting Governor Guy Hunt for missing political donations or whatever. The danger of getting in that position is ignored because we want to complain about Attorney General Jimmy Evans. He deserves criticism for his aggressive actions in getting the governor indicted for something Evans should have known had already passed the status of limitations. While complaining about that, we remember the State's chief law enforcement officer was asked to investigate misuse of state owned airplanes. He ain't done that yet! The man continues to operate the same way he did at Montgomery County District Attorney. In fact his methods of investigation could easily be described as those of "a loose cannon."

Next year is election year in Alabama, for most statewide offices. Candidates for governor have long been signing up financial backers. A couple of would-be candidates for that office have backed off because there is just so much political money to be donated. Candidates for Lt. Governor are already shaking the bushes for votes. Robert Bedford of Russellville got a lot of publicity over the mailing of thousands of Christmas cards last year. Former Attorney General Don Siegelman is making the rounds and shaking a lot of hands. He admits to having his eyes on another statewide race and probably the number two spot... the one that is only a heartbeat away from the governor's office. That ain't all the candidates, but it gives voters a start.

We read with amusement last week that a Washington columnist said the Alabama Lt. Governor's office was "stepping stone to the governor's office." Actually there has only been one person who did that in the past 100 years!

The Coffee County Commission has announced plans for a public hearing to discuss their idea of adding some taxes to build a new courthouse in Enterprise and add to the Elba courthouse. The informal, nonbinding hearing will be influenced, not by facts, but by those who yell the loudest. If a group wants to put the Enterprise courthouse employees on top of the Boll Weevil monument and can get enough supporters saying it at that meeting... who knows.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$13.00 Per Year
6 Months - \$7.00 - Including City & State Tax
Alabama Counties - \$14.50 Per Year - Including Tax
6 Months - \$8.00
Outside Alabama - \$15.50 Per Year - 6 Months - \$8.00

ELBA POLICE REPORT

The Elba Police Department, beginning Tuesday, March 23, 1993, investigated the following incidents: five thefts, one assault, one resisting arrest, four harassments, one house fire, three criminal mischiefs, one disorderly conduct, two simple burglaries, one trespassing and two reckless endangerments.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: two for driving with suspended driver's license, one for expired tag, one for no driver's license required, one for illegally parking in a handicap parking zone.

The following arrests were made: one for contempt of court, two for simple gambling, one for failure to appear, four for harassment, one for assault, and two for reckless endangerment.

Daily activity highlights for the week was as follows:

TUESDAY, MARCH 23 - Theft at Mullins Apartments (7:25 p.m.); Routine activity.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24 - Alarm at residence on Flournoy St. (6:32 a.m.); Burglary at Big/Little Store (\$300 p.m.); Vehicle fire in Bu-sin Community (7:27 p.m.); Fire on Co. Rd. 418 (11:18 p.m.).

THURSDAY, MARCH 25 - Wreck on Highway 84 (4:45 a.m.); Subject reported with a gun on Brunson St. (10:19 p.m.).

FRIDAY, MARCH 26 - Wreck on AL Hwy. 87N (7:05 a.m.); Alarm at National Guard Armory (9:13 a.m.); Rescue run to residence on Adams St. (1:13 p.m.); Subject reported with a gun at old high school (3:41 p.m.); Fire at residence on West St. (7:55 p.m.); Rescue unit dispatched to standby at house fire at Kendrick Apt. (9:24 p.m.).

SATURDAY, MARCH 27 - Wreck on East Davis St. (9:35 a.m.); Alarm at Elba High School (2:20 p.m.); Rescue run to Hobo Pantry (3:10 p.m.); Fire at Zoar Church (5:53 p.m.); Rescue unit dispatched to standby at Zoar Church fire (5:57 p.m.).

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 - Rescue run to residence on West Simmons St. (12:54 a.m.); Alarm at Elba High School (10:46 a.m.); Disturbance on Stouderine St. (4:50 p.m.); Disturbance on Reynolds St. (8:50 p.m.); Disturbance on Jackson St. (10:17 p.m.).

MONDAY, MARCH 29 - Alarm at washateria at Big/Little Store (11:27 a.m.); Prowler at residence on Troy Hwy. (11:41 p.m.); Routine activity.

Piney Woods Arts Festival

The 19th annual Piney Woods Arts Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 17th and 18th under the pines at Enterprise State Junior College. The festival is sponsored by Coffee County Arts Alliance in cooperation with Enterprise State Junior College.

Exhibitors will include painters, sculptors, woodworkers, potters, basket weavers, jewelers, and other craftspeople.

Festival hours are: Saturday, April 17th 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 18th 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free with a small charge made for activities at the fun center.

Bulletin Board

S.S. REP. - Courtroom, 4th Tues 12:30
1:30 CALIFORNIA 1:00-7:25
ROTARY CLUB - Monday @ Noon - First Baptist Church Fellowship
ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. - Thurs. 4 a.m.
ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday 6:00 p.m. - City Hall
LIONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues - 6:30 p.m. - Renss House Restaurant
KWANS CLUB - 1st Thurs - Noon @ Home Folk Restaurant
ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs 5:30 p.m. - Sup. Office
AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Thurs 7:30 p.m. - Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
RESCUE SQUAD - 2nd & 4th Tues - 7 p.m. - Renss House Restaurant
WATER & ELECTRIC - 2nd Mon - 6:00 p.m. - City Hall (also City Council meeting)
MASONIC LODGE 178 - 1st & 3rd Mon of each month - 7 p.m.
BAND BOOSTERS - 1st Mon - 7 p.m. - Band Room
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri 8:12 noon & 12:30-4:30 New Brakes C.C. Co. Complex 894-5853
COFFEE COUNTY COMMUNITIES ANS - 2nd Sat - 3 p.m. - Club House
COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN 3rd Wed Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise
AIRPORT AUTHORITY 1st Tuesday 12 Noon - City Hall Conference Room
AARP Meet every 3rd Tuesday night of the month.

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Ahhh

AREA DEATHS

ANN WHITMAN

Ann Whitman, age 56 of Elba, Alabama died Sunday March 28, 1993, at the home of a daughter in Elba.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 29, 1993 from Hayes Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Jack Reynolds officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery, Elba, AL.

Survivors include: four daughters, Kathy Mulaz, Shelly Smith, and Kim Miller, all of Elba, AL; and Peggy Rugg of Wicksburg, AL; six grandchildren; mother-in-law, Lillie Mae Whitman of Greenville, AL.

MARY B. WHITEHEARST
Mary Bean Whitehurst, age 25 of Elba, Alabama died Tuesday, March 23, 1993 in a Dothan, AL hospital.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 27, 1993 from the Piney Grove Church of God in Christ, with Rev. David Beacham officiating. Burial followed in the Piney Grove Cemetery with Virgil Coleman Mortuary directing.

Survivors include: her husband, Fernando Whitehurst; one daughter, Marika D. Whitehurst of Samson; two sisters, Annie Gray and Sarah Loman, both of Samson; one brother-in-law, Greg Loman; two loving parents, William Bean of Opp, Alabama; a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following persons admitted during the time period of March 23, 1993 through March 29, 1993.

They were: Eunice Nelson, Mable Harrison, Fannie Nelson, Johnnie Owens, Allen Johnson, Marvin Watson, Harper Grant, Ross O. Gifford, Oneal Hattaway, Elizabeth Young, Sheryl Harrison, W. A. Morrow, Cynthia Lewis, Elva Grimes, Cecil Adkins, Hazel Parker, Mallie Hudson, Rosie Jackson, Betty Kyles, James Armscud, Matthew King, Wallace Hardy, and Lucille Donaldson.

Those discharged during the same period of time were: Evelyn Bryant, Hazel Parker, Inez Weeks, Cynthia Lewis, Matthew King, Betty Kyles, Rosie Jackson, Robert Ross, W. B. Baldwin, Lori Wadsworth, Wallace Wise, Lillie McIlwain, and Oscar Vaughan.

MAKING OURSELVES CLEARER

The Elba Clipper wants to correct errors that appear in this newspaper. Any reader wishing to point out our errors, whether ours or those of our sources, should contact the editor at 897-2823. Clarifications will appear promptly in this space.

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FELIX COSTON ROWE

Funeral was at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday at Collier-Butler Chapel for Mrs. Felix Coston Rowe, 92, 421 Turrentine Ave., Gadsden, AL, who died Monday, March 22, 1993. Dr. Oscar Davis officiated. A private graveside service followed at Forrest Cemetery.

Survivors include: a son, Joseph W. Courson, Titusville, FL; Three sisters, Grace Taylor, Ruth Ogilthorpe, and Clair Winston, all of Elba, AL; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Courson were former residents of Elba, Alabama.

She was preceded in death by a son, Mercer Coston Rowe.

She is survived by a daughter, Henrietta Rowe Jordan; son, Dr. Stephen W. Rowe; grandchildren, Dr. Wesley W. Acee III, Ann Rowe Acee Hill, Marie Coston Acee, Julia Gari Jordan, Dr. S. Glover Rowe, Dr. Clay Coston Rowe, Douglas N. Rowe, Kathryn Reed Rowe; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Mrs. William Paul Till, Brewton, AL.

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CHIEF (Continued from Page One)

firing an employee without just cause, the boss is depriving him (or her) of his property (job) without compensating the employer of liberty tending due process of law. Public employers also get caught for depriving the employee of liberty (good name in the community) without providing due process of law.

Two 1972 U. S. Supreme Court decisions held that a public employee has a property interest protected by due process if he could show a "legitimate claim of entitlement" to his job - a contract, or tenure, or even oral or implied understanding of creating reasonable expectation of continued employment.

In a 1976 Supreme Court ruling a police officer in another state lost a case of wrongful dismissal. However there were apparently no state laws in that state mandating a hearing. Also the officer had not been told publicly why he was fired, therefore he couldn't claim he was stigmatized by the termination.

The Supreme Court has also ruled that the hearing must be granted at

a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner.

Alabama law allows suspension before the hearing but doesn't allow final dismissal. Therefore officially Hanchey (who is not getting a weekly check from the city) will legally continue on the payroll for the City of Elba until a final determination is made by the city council.

A recent court decision dealing with two Milbrook police officers resulted in the officers both getting a large settlement for wrongful dismissal.

The Alabama League of Municipalities recommends that city governments: • Use special care in specifying reasons for dismissal. • Look closely at the ordinance or statute under which the employee was hired to determine whether he had a property right in his employment that would entitle him to due process protection.

Discussions by legal experts in the field of employee rights continue

to refer to a municipal employee as having a property interest in his or her job.

There are laws preventing the termination of any municipal employee (at will or permanent) for the exercise of constitutional rights. This is protected by both the 5th and 14th Amendment. Constitutional rights include voting rights and freedom of association.

Section 11-43-160 of the Code of Alabama, reads that a police chief, among others, is not an "employee at-will" and can only be removed, for cause, after a hearing, by the officer or body that made the appointment.

Therefore courts have ruled that such an employee has a property interest in his or her job and can only be terminated after a due process hearing and finding of "just cause." These rights are guaranteed in both the 5th and 14th Amendments and will be upheld by federal courts when they are violated.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

For many years people of the community buried their own dead. By necessity, lots of the people were carpenters and they built the caskets and boxes for burial.

Every community had a leader that took charge of the details. Men were prepared, banded and dressed by men, women were prepared by women. The men dug the grave and saw that appropriate services were conducted.

In Elba, John Moores Bonneau was in the hardware business, and he began to see a need for ready made caskets. His hardware store was a two story building on the east side of the square. He had a casket display room built upstairs and installed a freight elevator, hand operated, to carry the caskets and boxes up and down.

The caskets were all wooden and cloth covered, with the interior unfurnished. They picked out the type of interior they wanted and it was completed there. That was called "dressing the casket."

The mules and wagon had been left in the alley in back of the store. The casket and box was loaded on the wagon and they carried it with them and the funeral took place as usual.

As time passed, there were requests for Mr. Bonneau to handle the funerals. By doing that, he became Elba's first funeral director. In addition to his other affairs, he decided to go to the funeral business. In the 1920's he sent one of his employees, Comer DeVane, to Atlanta, Georgia to become Elba's first embalmer.

The first funeral home in Elba was Bonneau-Jeter Funeral Home.

In Enterprise, Mr. Polk Seary had already taken a correspondence course and had become Coffee County's first embalmer. His grand children still operate Seary Funeral Home in Enterprise.

There is a vast difference in yesterday's ways and today's.

Jake Bonneau

Dear Editor:

My name is Stephen Knighten and I am a concerned student at Elba High School. My problem that I am concerned about is the overcrowding of the Elba City School buses.

Everyday that I ride the bus I am forced to sit in the back of the bus saving seven seats at the front because of the large numbers of elementary school students that get on after me and lots of other high school students.

My solution to this problem is that the City of Elba School Systems needs to buy at least two or three new school buses and hire at least two or three new bus drivers.

Sincerely yours,
Stephen Knighten
A Concerned Student



MRS. MARY BROCK STEPHENS OF NEW BROCKTON is celebrating her 92nd birthday today, April 1. Mrs. Stephens lives in New Brockton, where she is a very active citizen and continues to keep her own yards! She attends the New Brockton Methodist Church.

JURY (Continued from Page One)

The arrest warrant states that Circuit District Attorney's Office, the defendant's arraignment is scheduled for May 4, 1993.

A spokesman for Ft. Rucker, Bill Hayes, said since his arrest, Maj. Crosey, who was a volunteer with a Boy Scout troop in Enterprise, has been physically helpless.

According to Bruce DeVane, been reassigned to hospital duties chief investigator for the 12th Judicial Circuit.

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- Check Distributor Cap and Rotor
- Check Ignition Wiring
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- Set Idle

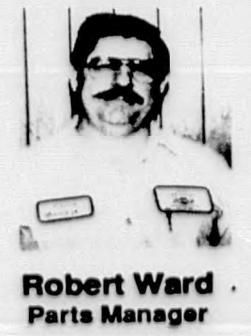
4 CYL - \$32.00

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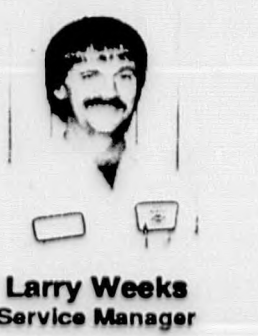
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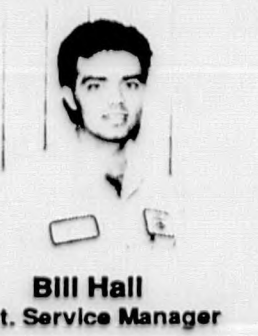
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ELBA CITY SCHOOLS LUNCHROOM MENUS April 5 - 9, 1993

BREAKFAST
Monday - Cheese Toast Or Cereal, Juice, Milk
Tuesday - Biscuits & Sausage Or Cereal, Juice, Milk
Wednesday - Biscuits W/ Jelly Or Cereal, Sausage, Juice, Milk
Thursday - Cereal Or Toast, Fruit, Milk
Friday - Toast W/ Jelly Or Cereal, Eggs, Juice, Milk

LUNCH
Monday - Chicken Fillet Or Steak Fingers, Garden Peas, Rice W/ Gravy, Rolls, Dessert, Milk
Tuesday - Taco Salad Or Hamburger, Lemons/Cheese/Doritos, Corn, Fruit, Milk
Wednesday - Hot Dog Or Grilled Cheese Sandwich, French Fries W/ Catsup, Green Beans, Cakes, Milk
Thursday - Barbecue Or Steakburger, Rice W/ Gravy, Field Peas, Fruit, Milk
Friday - Pizza Or Corn Dog, Biscuits, French Fries W/ Catsup, Fruit Cup, Milk

ELBA HIGH SCHOOL

Kevin Dewberry
Editor

Jocelyn Bozeman
Co-Editor

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Name Plates For Classrooms

by Kevin Bryan

Hey, whose room is this? This is a question that won't be asked as much around school, thanks to the Chi Alpha Mu Math Club. This club consists of students from the seventh through ninth grades. These students recognized the problem of finding the teachers' rooms. Because of this problem, the group decided to buy name plates for each room as one of their service projects. These name plates have already proven helpful to visitors to the school, but they will probably prove most valuable to the new seventh graders next year. This was a great idea and a great service to the school.

Swing Batter, Batter!

by Amy Baker

On Thursday, March 18, the EHS Lady Tigers traveled to Opp to face the Lady Bobcats for the first game of the season. Anxiety filled the air! The Bobcats jumped out on top and there was no stopping them. The Bobcats defeated the Lady Tigers 12-3 and 18-3.

On Monday, March 22, the Lady Tigers were awaiting a victory after coming off of a hard loss to a long-time rival, the Opp Bobcats. In the first game of the double-header against the Lady Tigers, the Tigers won 12-3 and 18-3. In the second game, the Lady Tigers jumped out on top and never looked back. The EHS Lady Tigers again defeated the Lady Bobcats of Andalusia. The second victory was 15-5.

Misty Boland - Misty is the daughter of Jearl and Bertie Boland. She is a member of the St. Rita Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Interact Club, FBLA, the Tiger Tales and the Marching Tiger Band, where she serves as drum major and librarian. She is also a member of the Basin Baptist Church. After high school, Misty plans to attend Education with a major in history.

Amy White - Amy is the daughter of David and Joni White. She is a member of the Marching Tiger Band, Lady Tigers Softball Team, FBLA, SADD, and Mu Alpha Theta. She also enjoys being with friends and watching movies. She is a member of the Whiteaker Baptist Church. Her future plans are to attend Troy State University to become a registered nurse and Life Flight attendant.

Tiffany Tate - Tiffany is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Bowers and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Tate. She is a member of the Marching Tiger Band, Interact Club, FBLA, and the Tiger Tales Staff. She is also employed by the Southeast Alabama Medical Center. She plans to attend Troy State University after high school.

Marsha Lewis - Marsha is the daughter of Keith and Lyn Lewis. She is a member who serves as captain. She also enjoys swimming, dancing, singing, and riding horses. Marsha is a member of the Elba United Methodist Church, adult youth choir, and the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Her future plans are to become a veterinarian.

Tiger Reps Assist In Play Production

by Joe Jacobs

On March 18, the Elba High School Tiger Reps assisted in the production of the play "Steel Magnolias," which was performed in the Elba High School auditorium. This play was sponsored by the Coffee County Arts Alliance. The Tiger Reps' duties included directing guests to the auditorium, receiving tickets at the door, and distributing programs. They also assisted in the play. For their services, the Tiger Reps were granted admission to the play.

Elba High School is fortunate to have one of the best auditoriums in the area. Because of this top of the line facility, many more community functions can be held in Elba in the future.

Free By Choice

by Jake Stokes

On Tuesday, March 17, Free By Choice came to Elba High School. Free By Choice is a group of convicted speakers to students about their personal experience with drugs and alcohol and how it led them to prison. They were brought by Sergeant Sterling of the Alabama Board of Corrections. Elba DAKE officer, Dean Blair, introduced the speakers. The prisoners told us that the decisions we make today will determine our future. They stressed the importance of discipline and education and staying out of trouble. The prisoners are not paid or rewarded in any way for participating in this program. They told true stories with powerful messages.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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Leah Crowe and Tiffany Tew - Leah Crowe is a junior at Elba High and is the son of Bill and Joann Driggers. Cory has played pitcher on the Varsity Baseball team for three years. He is an active member of St. Rita Club, Mu Alpha Theta, FCA, E-Club, FBLA, and attends the Liberty Church of Christ. In his spare time, Cory enjoys collecting baseball cards, playing golf, going out, playing tennis, playing with his dogs, and playing dominoes.

Ebone Rayborn is in the tenth grade and is the daughter of Gwendolyn Rayborn. She plays third base and pitcher for the Lady Tigers. Ebone is a member of FBLA, FBLA, and the Greater New Zion Missionary Baptist Church. She enjoys being with friends, playing softball, and talking on the phone.

Katonya Peterson has played left field for the girls softball team for three years. Katonya is a member of FCA, FBLA, and Bethlehem Baptist Church. Her hobbies include singing, talking on the phone, and playing softball. Katonya's parents are the Reverend Willie and Mrs. Ollie Peterson.

EHS Students Attend Presidential Classroom

by Amy Baker, Kevin Dewberry, Alan Robertson, and Emily Strong

On Saturday, March 6, Amy Baker, Kevin Dewberry, Alan Robertson and Emily Strong arrived in Washington, DC for a supposedly long stay with the Presidential Classroom. The Presidential Classroom was formed over the world to learn more about the United States government and the historic sites in Washington, DC. After arriving in Washington, DC, everyone checked into their rooms. The classroom went through orientation, and divided into nine different caucuses. Each caucus consisted of people from all over the United States, Canada, Haiti, and Puerto Rico.

Throughout the week, we attended seminars, caucus meetings, crossfire sessions, and toured many sites. Some of the seminar topics included education, the deficit, defense, government waste, and lobbying. Speakers ranged from political columnist Jack Anderson to Vice Admiral Ronald J. Zlotopfer, Chief of Naval Personnel and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations. Within our caucus meetings, we discussed events of the day and formulated the debate which took place at the end of the week. During the week we participated in four crossfire sessions which were based on the following issues: community, social, international, and national problems. The crossfires gave students a chance to express and discuss their opinions with other students. We toured all the monuments, the Smithsonian, Ford's Theater, the FBI Building, Capitol Hill, the Library of

Congress, Union Station, the Supreme Court Building, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Other highlights of the week included both House and Senate appointments, the dinner theater, and the closing banquet. We met Senator Richard Shelby and the aides of Senator Howell Heflin and Representative Terry Everett.

After waiting snow all week, the worst blizzard since 1969 hit us early Saturday morning. Needless to say, we got our wish and plenty of it! Due to the weather, we were snowed in until Sunday night, the trip was a whole was the best week we have ever experienced!

Pictured left to right are Kevin Dewberry, Emily Strong, Amy Baker, and Alan Robertson.

A Day In History: April 7, 1904

by Laura Hall and Lancy McCollough

April 7, 1904 brought a change to Elba's economy. Two new businesses opened. Grand openings were held for Wicks Clothing Store and Ham Tatum opened a first class jewelry store in the rear of Tucker and Harper's Drug Store. The farming report stated, "Corn planting is about finished and cotton planting is well under way." Today, 1993, there are several fields planted in corn which already have corn breaking through in the top of the soil. It was the sign of the top of the soil in 1904, as a man came to town trading mules and horses, and walkover shoes sold at a price of \$3.50 or \$4.00 a pair.

VICA Contest

by Laura Hall

On March 12, 1993, three students won awards at the District 4 VICA Skating Contest at Wallace College in Dothan. Frank Johnson placed first in the welding contest and won a scholarship to Wallace in Dothan. Phillip Compton placed first in the auto mechanics contest and Phillip won a scholarship to Wallace in Dothan. Frank Johnson and Phillip Compton will compete at the state contest in Montgomery on April 23, 1993.

SUPPORT THE ELBA TIGERS

by Laura Hall

On March 22, 1993, several students from Elba High attended the Math Olympiad at Wallace College in Dothan. The students competed in Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, computer literacy, Geometry, Algebra II, advanced math, and the comprehensive test. Thirty students from Elba attended and competed. They were championed by math teachers Karen Morrow and Cynthia Crome.

Grant Coleman placed seventh in advanced math. Joey Bozeman won first place in the computer literacy competition. The students enjoyed attending the competition and hope to go again next year. The Olympiad was attended by almost 2,000 high school students and teachers. Schools from south Alabama and Georgia, and northwest Florida were represented at the competition.

Pictured above are EHS members of PALS and their little buddies.

PALS Class Attends Production of Steel Magnolias

by Stephanie Daniels

On March 16, 1993, the Elba High PALS (Practicing Acquired Leadership Skills) class attended a play entitled "Steel Magnolias" in the Elba High School Auditorium.

Steel Magnolias was originally produced by the WPA Theatre in New York, in 1987. This tour was produced in association with Troupe America, Inc. Minneapolis and Big League Theatricals, Inc. in New York.

The PALS class would like to thank the PALS and Spares Sunday School Class of high members of the class were able to take their little buddies with them to the play. This was a worthwhile cultural experience for all PALS members who attended the play.

Mr. Richburg, a resident of Andalusia, Alabama, has been speaking on drug education and teenage suicide for four years. He travels to different schools on his days off to speak to teenagers about the importance of drug free and suicide free life.

Mr. Robert Baker, principal at Zion Chapel, introduced Mr. Richburg and stated that he thought it would be a way to set a new foundation for the future of Zion Chapel.

The question that Mr. Richburg asked each of the classes to whom he spoke was why do people have suicide on their minds? His answer was they have given up on life and are most likely

Webster's Dictionary defines suicide as the act of taking one's own life voluntarily. But why do so many teenagers find suicide to be the alternative or solution to their problems? This question, along with many others, was among the topics discussed by Mr. David Richburg, an Alabama Citizen Action Speaker on teenage suicide.

Mr. Richburg ended his discussion with things he wanted people to remember. He said that each person listening was an important person. Life always has a problem but the problem is only temporary. A person should take some time to relieve stress like taking a vacation. People have to take themselves before anyone else will.

By the end of the day the students felt more prepared to take the exam. Mr. Bryant gave some helpful hints and study sheets. The students greatly appreciated his coming and learned much from his discussions.

At registration each student was given a colored badge to wear. The colors of the badges divided those attending the workshop into groups so that the number of people in the concurrent workshops would be equal.

Ms. Alberta Banks District IV Vice President, Dr. Betty Hilly-Auburn University, and Mrs. Robyn Wyatt-Enterprise State Junior College conducted the workshops.

The ESJC Mentors gave the students a tour of the campus. When the workshops and the tour were over, everyone went to lunch. Mr. Dan J. Presley, Coffee County Extension Agent, gave the invocation. After lunch was served, Mrs. Ann Dyess of Elba High School recognized the special guests. Mrs. Gail Kello of Enterprise High School gave the welcome. She asked that each group stand when their sponsor's name was called. Mrs. Sandra Coffey, Coffee County Extension Agent, also expressed welcome to those attending the workshop.

Entertainment was provided by the Jan-Deh School of Dance and the Jordan-Abby Dance Centre. J. C. Penney sponsored a fashion show with the theme "Spring into 93."

JOB SPOTLIGHT

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Rebel Baseball Team In Full Swing

by Dawn Nelson

Every spring, Zion Chapel's senior class rankings are announced and with these rankings comes the announcement of who is valedictorian and who is salutatorian.

Class rank is determined by the grades that each student has made in all their classes starting in the ninth grade. In the ninth grade the students are allowed to decide if they want to earn a standard or an advanced diploma. Those that decide the advanced diploma take the classes that prepare them for college. Those that take the standard diploma take general course studies.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 1993 are Angela Dawn Nelson and Christie Michele Eddins. The valedictorian, Dawn Nelson, and salutatorian, Christie Eddins will be the guest speakers at graduation.

Christie Michele Eddins is 17 years old. She is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), the Beta Club, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), and Quill and Scroll. She is also editor of the Rebel page, a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students, and a member of the annual staff. She is the reigning Miss Zion Chapel. Christie plans to attend Enterprise State Junior College in the fall and then transfer to Troy State.

Angela Dawn Nelson is 17 years old. She is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), president of the Beta Club, vice-president of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), co-editor of the Rebel page, and a member of the annual staff. She is also a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students. Dawn also received an award from the University of Alabama for being an Outstanding Junior and an award from the Woodmen of American History. She plans to attend Livingston University and then go to law school.

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Valedictorian & Salutatorian

by Dawn Nelson

Every spring, Zion Chapel's senior class rankings are announced and with these rankings comes the announcement of who is valedictorian and who is salutatorian.

Class rank is determined by the grades that each student has made in all their classes starting in the ninth grade. In the ninth grade the students are allowed to decide if they want to earn a standard or an advanced diploma. Those that decide the advanced diploma take the classes that prepare them for college. Those that take the standard diploma take general course studies.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 1993 are Angela Dawn Nelson and Christie Michele Eddins. The valedictorian, Dawn Nelson, and salutatorian, Christie Eddins will be the guest speakers at graduation.

Christie Michele Eddins is 17 years old. She is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), the Beta Club, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), and Quill and Scroll. She is also editor of the Rebel page, a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students, and a member of the annual staff. She is the reigning Miss Zion Chapel. Christie plans to attend Enterprise State Junior College in the fall and then transfer to Troy State.

Angela Dawn Nelson is 17 years old. She is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), president of the Beta Club, vice-president of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), co-editor of the Rebel page, and a member of the annual staff. She is also a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students. Dawn also received an award from the University of Alabama for being an Outstanding Junior and an award from the Woodmen of American History. She plans to attend Livingston University and then go to law school.

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Views From The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The AEA Holiday is usually a week of fun around the Mularz house; however, this year the holiday was anything but fun as Kathy lost her Mother, Melissa and Melanie lost one of their best friends - their grandmother Ann Whitman. Ann was like a Mother to me for the past fifteen years and one of the most loving people I'd ever met. She always had a smile on her face and always wanted company to come visit. She was never too busy to talk with her daughters and never said no when her grandkids wanted something. We all said our good-byes Monday afternoon, but none of us will ever forget her and she will always be a very important member of our family!

LADY TIGERS EVEN RECORD AT 2-2 WITH BIG WINS

The Elba Lady Tigers got shelled in their opening games last week, but bounced back and clobbered Andalusia to even their record at 2-2 for the young season. The Lady Tigers only lost two players last year due to graduation and this year only have three seniors, which shows everyone just how young the team really is. The Lady Tigers are getting better and better each and every season and before long they too may be threatening to win a state title of their own.

I'LL WATCH THE FINAL FOUR, BUT NOT GET EXCITED

When Vanderbilt and Indiana got beat over the weekend it took my favorite out of the NCAA tournament. I've always liked Coach Bobby Knight and his teams, despite his image, while Vanderbilt was an SEC team and played true team basketball.

I know that Kentucky is an SEC team and has a real shot at taking home the title, but as bad as I hate to admit it...Michigan is my pick.

IN CLOSING...

This week's column is a little short, but my mind isn't really on sports and I'm writing it around what is a time that I need to be with my wife and family. Maybe next week things will settle down a little and I'll get back in the swing.

Dixie Youth League announces team rosters

The Elba Dixie Youth Baseball League held its player draft last week and announced that it would field a total of six teams for the 1993 season.

The practice season will begin on April 12 with a week of exhibition games, with the regular season set to begin on April 22.

Following are complete team rosters:

PIRATES
Coaches Joe Simmons, Charles Driggers and Mike Robinson
Jerod Simmons, Charles Driggers, Justin Harrison, Travis Kelley, Michael Estes, Robby Kinsaul, Chris Thomas, Danny O'Toole, Ashley Le-gear, Jason McKenzie, Nicholas Daughtry, Kellen Cole and Josh Robinson.

ROYALS
Coaches Larry Lewis, Ron McMonagle and William Moore
Aaron Burns, Jeffery Watson, Maurice Jones, Justin Lambert, Aaron Mackie, Paul McMonagle, Josh Lewis, Pat Harrison, Lacion Griffin, Brandon Deloach, Charlie Moore, Ashley Paul and Michael Jerkins.

NETS
Coach Alvin Cordell
Clint Cowen, Derrick Thigpen, Daniel Murdock, Wesley Gray, Derrick Coleman, Brooks Croel, Jerry Vignola, Christopher Driggers,

CARDINALS
Coach Byron Hodge
Joshua Hodge, Brad Holley, Kevin Dodd, Mark Wicker, Shawn Kidd, Justin Maddox, Kagan Richard, Wesley Sykes, Omega Knight, Latoris Thomas, Dustin Simson, Jesse Reeves, Bryan Mitchell, Caleb

ASTROS
Coaches Joe Simmons and Mike Robinson
Andrea Medley, Cedric Foster, Daniel Murdock, Wesley Gray, Jerry Caldwell, Brandon Lapoint, Jason Thomas, Heath Hughes, Jeremi-

YANKEES
Coach Joe Crain
Danny Chesnut, Phil Schindler, Adam Brooks, Jeremy Dawkins, Rume Boswell, Nicholas Brunson, Pete Manning, Todd Simmons, Lee Scarborough, Rory Hutchinson, Stephen Smith, Jonathan Morgan, Kevin Burks, O'Shay Hammond.

RED S
Coach Ronnie Vaughan
Che Vaughan, Jason Smith, Un-dray Chism, Nick Semonelle, Trey Lawless, Gerald Bryant, Randy Dodd, Marcus Tillis, Clint Tindel, Dundray Peterson, Derrick Jones, Kevin Tillis, Josh Dawkins, Joseph Sanders, Jeremy Cook.

ATHLETICS
Coach Merrill Shirley
Griffin Shirley, Rudy Fere, Todd McKee, Hennis Washington, Seh Manning, Jeremy Pippin, Billy Kelly, John Dubose, Doug Grimes, John Mack, Forest Hancock, Ladon Daniels, Luke Bludsworth, Ronnie Davis, Jacob Parrish, Courtney Robinson, Claude Daniels.

DODGERS
Coach Robert Bowden
Todd Grantham, Eddie Cowen, Chris Tyson, Shandez Daniels, John Robertson, Jody Johnson, Paul Marsh, Lerry Smedley, Jerrell Smedley, Jace Cowen, Matthew Se-

WHITE SOX
Coach Terry Hudson
Shawn Bryson, Doug Marler, Brian Rowe, Ashley Sutley, Trent Cal-houn, J.W. Carter, Derek Marler, Matt Galloway, Wade Parker, Jason Mitchell, Edward Cumberland, Lor-roll Wilkerson.

BLUE JAYS
Coaches Lamar Bradshaw, Stan Windham and Jack Cardine
Jason Cardine, Josh Davis, Austin Harris, Eric Bradshaw, Michael Spencer, Rusty Hutto, Bryan Kinsaul, Josh Windham, Rocky West, Ryan Mittelbach, Steven Lawson, Sylvester Musser and Brian Medley.

EXPOS
Coach Jerry Satter
Brandon Satter, Jimbo Cook, Adam Waddall, Alan Head, Julius Smith, Jeremy Sanders, Marcus Tay-lor, Joshua Moultry, Shawn Sunston, Jonathan Head, Rush Brunson, Will Farris, Wesley Kelley, Tony Smith, Allen Paul Johnson, William Satter.

ORIOLES
Michael Olson, Brian Brunson, Alan Samuel, T.J. Carter, Neil Grantham, Blake Streetman, Chris Fuller, Michael Sams, Shane Burke, Avrian Stoudemire, Daniel Bow-man, Adam Frederick, Jonathan Bar-

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Coach Terry Burks and Lamont Head
Clay Sutley, Ross Adkinson, Gunter Akridge, Christopher Sasser, Timothy Chad White, Brandon Nickolson, Bart Barnes, Aaron Bak-ley, Austin Boothe, Zel Daniels, Mi-chael Reed, Chad Barbaree, John Patrick Oglesby, Stephen Knight, Charles Windham.

ANGELS
Practice Schedule - Monday at 4:00 and Saturday at 8:00
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Cory McKee, John Waters, Adam Sutley, Britt Grimes, Brian Rhodes, Jason Hayes, Jimmy Coleman, Ran-dall Brunson, Evan Maddox, Gavin Mauldin, Lorenzo Greene, Job Bow-ers, Derek Lott, Anthony Barkers.

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COFFEE COUNTY 4-H PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE EXHIBITS WINNERS... Jr. Division, first place - Daphne Jinnright; second place - Morgan Hodge and Angie Jinnright (tie); third place - Melissa Mulaz; and fourth place - Amy Collins and Crystal Burrows (tie); Sr. Division, first place - Beverly Flowers (not shown); and second place - Amy DeVaughan (not shown).



COFFEE COUNTY 4-H WOODWORKING DEMONSTRATION... First place winner - Heath Hughes; second place - Justin Hughes



Pictured left to right: Bill B. Faulk, Earth Team Member, and District Conservationist Steve Musser are shown with the Chief's Cup.

Volunteers Receive Award Recognition

Coffee County's Earth Team Member Bill B. Faulk was recently honored as volunteer efforts throughout Alabama claimed the National Volunteer Service Award. Known as Earth Team members, District Conservationist Steve Musser said, "I am very pleased with the services our volunteer provides the public from the New Brockton Field office. It is most appropriate that his efforts are recognized with this prestigious award." Persons interested in the volunteer program may contact the Soil Conservation Service at the Coffee County Agricultural Center in New Brockton.

Co-op announces plans for special Horse/Mule Sale

The Elba Farmer's Livestock Co-op will hold a special Horse/Mule Sale on Saturday April 10th. The Tack Sale will begin at 5 p.m. and the Horse and Mule Sale will begin at 6 p.m.

Help Protect The Environment-Don't Abuse Fertilizers

Homeowners and gardeners are among the worst abusers of chemical fertilizers. "If a little makes my lawn and garden grow well, then a lot will really make it grow" seems to be the theory behind most home fertilizer programs.

Humus also keeps crusty soils loose and friable. When organic matter is broken down to humus, some nutrients are released into the soil, thereby fertilizing plants.

Many gardeners like to use organic matter as a fertilizer because it provides a slow-release fertilizer throughout the season. Organic matter can be incorporated into the soil any time of the year to build soil humus. Once it is mixed with the soil, microorganisms quickly break it down. Mulches, on the other hand, tend to protect the soil surface. They can be mixed with the soil the following fall.

A winter crop is another alternative if it can be grown and turned under in the spring. A winter crop of rye or clover could add about 50 pounds of dry matter per 1000 square feet to the garden. Once turned under or mixed with the soil in the spring, this fresh plant material breaks down rapidly.

Winter cover crops will protect the soil and add organic matter, but they also can add humus as fast as adding it yourself. All Coffee County soils are low in organic matter and humus because of our warm, humid climate. We don't have the deep, dark soils characteristic like the grain-producing areas of the Midwest. But with a little effort, we can do a lot to improve the physical characteristics and the productivity of our Coffee County soils.

Improve Soil With Organic Matter

Most Coffee County garden soils could use some help. They are either very sandy and dry or clayey and compact. Some crust over badly after planting, making it difficult to get a good stand of carrots, squash, and other small seeded vegetables. These soils can be improved by adding organic matter.

Organic matter is anything incorporated into the soil that was once alive. This includes leaves, straw, pine bark, grass clippings, crop residues, kitchen wastes, composts and manures. Soil microorganisms break down the organic matter into stable humus which give the soil its dark color. Soil humus gives soil that rich, dark color, prevents crusting, improves infiltration and water-

holding capacity, and provides a good environment for root growth.

Humus helps sandy soils to hold more water during dry periods and it opens up clay soils for better root growth.

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Tips On How Not To Abuse Fertilizer

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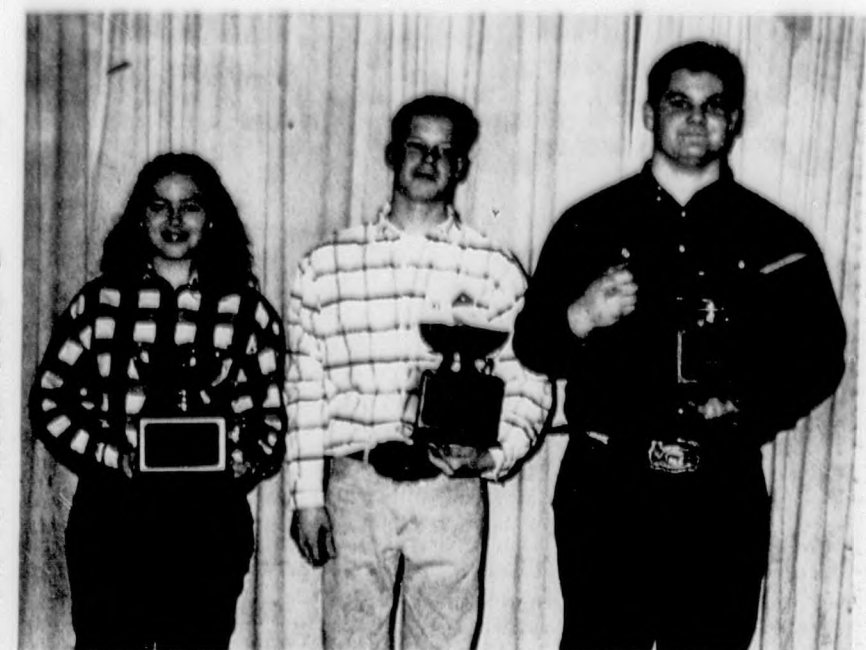
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TRI-STATE AREA CHAMPIONS... Shown left to right are Amanda Britt of Enterprise, Charles Bozeman of Elba, and Bo Boyd of New Brockton, all members of the Coffee County 4-H Club. These young people won three of the four divisions at the 57th Tri-State Area Steer Show held in Dothan.

Tri-State District Steer Show Is Big Success

Once again Coffee County 4-Hers did very well at the Tri-State Area District Steer Show held March 16th and 17th, 1993 in Dothan, Alabama. Coffee County has had the Grand Champion four out of the last five years and the Reserve Champion one year. They have won best county group for the last five years.

The results of the show are as follows: Jeremie Bryan of Kinston, placed 3rd in his class and was 5th in showmanship, qualifying for State. Pat Moates of Enterprise was 6th in his class, Charles Bozeman of Elba placed 1st in his class and was 1st in showmanship, qualifying for State. Joe Ballard of Kinston placed 6th in his class, his calf will be shown in the Simmental show at State. Emily Bryan was first in her class, she was the reserve heavyweight champion and placed 6th in showmanship. Leigh Kelley of New Brockton was 4th in her class and also qualified for State. Vaughan Boyd of New Brockton was 2nd in her class and qualified for State. Amanda Britt of Enterprise was 3rd in her class, placed 1st in showmanship and qualified for State. Reggie Britt of Enterprise placed 4th in showmanship, 5th in his class and also qualified for State. Bo Boyd of New Brockton placed 1st in his class with the Reserve Champion Light Heavyweight and the Champion Heavyweight. He had the overall Reserve Champion and placed 1st in Showmanship qualifying for State.

Jeremie Bryan, Pat Moates, Joe Ballard, and Reggie Britt will all show in the Simmental breed show at State. Amanda Britt and Bo Boyd will show in the Limousin show at State.

Also, make more use of your computer by storing files on disk rather than on paper. Use small pieces of paper for short memos.

When possible, use both sides of the paper for printed text and increase two-sided copying. Instead of throwing out papers with at least one blank side, load them in your laser printer for rough drafts and informal memos. Used paper also comes in handy to write yourself informal notes.

To further reduce paper consumption, consider sharing a morning paper with other employees. Remember to reuse file folders, too. In addition, consider purchasing plain paper for fax machines. To maximize paper space, use note pads with narrower lines.

You might also consider placing more emphasis on reusable office supplies. For example, think about buying mechanical pencils as well as refillable pens and tape dispensers.

Farmer's Co-Op Market Report

Reported by Alabama & U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Ronnie Vaughan - 897-6053
MARCH 23 & 24, 1993
ELBA MARKET

Cattle & Calves	Hogs
Salable Receipts (Est.)..... 15	454
Week Ago (Actual)..... 14	514
Year Ago (Actual)..... 26	589

OPP MARKET	Cattle & Calves	Hogs
Salable Receipts (Est.)..... 1077	164	
Week Ago (Actual)..... 296	5	
Year Ago (Actual)..... 837	0	

OPP MARKET		Hogs
	Cattle & Calves	
Salable Receipts (Est.).....	1077	164
Week Ago (Actual).....	296	5
Year Ago (Actual).....	837	0

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has a loan program designed to help members of socially disadvantaged groups. Charles C. DeRamus, Acting FmHA State Director, said today. Socially disadvantaged persons include Hispanics, Indians, Blacks, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. Special funds are allocated specifically for eligible SDA applicants under FmHA's Insured Farm Operating and Ownership loan programs as well as its Guaranteed Farm Operating and Ownership loan programs.

FmHA can provide technical assistance, if needed to help the borrower get started. Eligibility is limited to family size farm operations. Interested persons are urged to contact the Farmers Home Administration County Office serving their area for further details, DeRamus said.

To Rent Buy or Sell
Try An ELBA CLIPPER
CLASSIFIED
IT WORKS!!!!!!
897-2823

Spring savings! AT ACE

SALE ENDS April 11, 1993

OUTDOOR SAVINGS

4.47 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
Turf Fertilizer
High nitrogen formula promotes vigorous growth & root systems. Covers 5,000 sq. ft. 75004
Weed & Feed 75006.09..... \$5.97

SAVINGS ESSENTIALS

5.97 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
Rotary Mulcher
Three rust resistant rotary cutters w/short handle for tight areas & large handle for large jobs. Eliminates weeds & cultivates garden. 70047

LOADS OF SAVINGS

19.99 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
4 Cu. Ft. Wheelbarrow
Homeowner's wheelbarrow features seamless steel tray, 14" pneumatic tire & hardwood handles. 75793

DURABLE DEAL

2.49 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
2 1/2 Gallon Poly Gas Can
Non-rusting body with flexible spout, built-in filter & easy grip handle. Retail mowers & other gas-powered lawn tools. Red. 70653

9.99

American Made Bow Rake
16-tine cultivator rake with long, 60" handle, chrome ferrule. 71752

7.69

25' Trouble Light
Trouble Light features group, ded metal guard and 25' cord with 3 prong outlet. UL listed. 32773

9.99

6 Outlet Surge Protector
Protects against power surges, spikes & EMI/RFI. 15 amps, UL listed. 33329

10.88

First Alert Rechargeable Flashlight
Heavy-duty, high-impact housing. Holds charge up to 1 year. UL listed. 32329

Coffee County
Cattlemen's Association

SPRING SALE

Tuesday, April 6, 7 p.m.
Farmer's Livestock Co-op - Elba

Start Receiving Cattle at 7 a.m Tuesday

For further information contact:

Gilmer Grant - 484-3274
Mack Donaldson - 897-2583
Mike Marler - 897-2540 or 897-2340

It's Here! It's New! It's Spring!

HOMELITE

HTC12 \$109
GAS STRING TRIMMERS

HT19 \$89
HEDGE TRIMMER

HT19 \$129
TILLER

HTC12 \$119
HEDGE TRIMMER

HTC12 \$229
PRESSURE WASHER

HTC12 \$1849
ROTARY SPREADER

HTC12 \$1449
ROUND POINT SHOVEL

HTC12 \$1199
HEAVY DUTY RIVETTOOL

HTC12 \$4999
FINISHING SANDER WITH DUST BAG

HTC12 \$109
GAS STRING TRIMMERS

HT19 \$89
HEDGE TRIMMER

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HTC12 \$1199
HEAVY DUTY RIVETTOOL

HTC12 \$4999
FINISHING SANDER WITH DUST BAG

AT HENDRICKS HOMECENTER

4' High Back Cedar Swings 96⁰⁰

5' High Back Cedar Swings 114⁰⁰

387
18 Twine Lawn Rake

999
Pruning Shear

387
18 Twine Lawn Rake

377
YOUR CHOICE

1849
Rotary Spreader

1449
Round Point Shovel

1199
Heavy Duty Rivetool

4999
Finishing Sander With Dust Bag

13999
3/8" Cordless Drill Kit

5499
4" Disc Grinder

177
Heavy Duty Staple Gun

488
Toilet Tank Repair Valve

299
Dryer Vent Kit

3888
1/2 HP Food Disposal

788
Grounded Fault Circuit Interrupter

299
Indoor/Outdoor Floodlights

139
Soft White Bulbs

899
Bulbs With Adapters

399
E.A. RWN
Chalk & Sealant

547
MINWAX
WOOD FINISH

8999
WAGNER
Heavy-Duty Power Painter Kit

379
ACE
8x10 Ft. Poly Tarp

217
Buy 1 Get 1 FREE
Polyseamseal

799
Devoe
Interior Latex Flat Ceiling Paint

1099
Devoe
Interior Latex Flat Wall Paint

1399
Devoe
Exterior Acrylic House Paint

1199
Devoe
Interior Latex Eggshell Enamel

139
ACE
YOUR CHOICE

The Elba Clipper

VOLUME 96

35 CENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1993

1 SECTION 12 PAGES

NUMBER 37

ONE COURTHOUSE WOULD HAVE TO BE PETITIONED BY PEOPLE

Coffee County citizens say no to tax - yes to one courthouse

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

Last Friday morning, April 2, more than seventy citizens of Coffee County gathered in the community room of the Farm Complex in New Brockton.

A public hearing was held by the Coffee County Commission to hear public comments on a proposed property tax to fund courthouse construction.

The commission voted in its regular meeting on March 22 to build a new courthouse in Enterprise and an addition to the Elba Courthouse.

The courthouse issue arose after an Enterprise Division grand jury inspected the Enterprise Courthouse and recommended (they did not order or mandate) that a new facility be built.

The grand jury also requested that the building be inspected by the state fire marshal. This was done and several fire ordinance violations were discovered. The commission is in the process of complying with the fire marshal's recommendations.

The commission is proposing raising the county's ad valorem tax 3 1/2 mills to fund the courthouse construction. According to commissioners, this amounts to \$35 on \$100,000 assessed property value annually.

Commission Chairman Robert Stephens explained to the group that a mill is one-tenth of one cent or tax evaluation of \$1 of \$1,000 assessed value.

Friday's hearing revealed that county residents do not want any more new taxes imposed upon them.

One resident, Horace Windham, used the well-known phrase "Read my lips - No new taxes," to express his feelings.

While everyone at the hearing seemed to agree that the Enterprise Courthouse was in bad shape, no one wants to pay more taxes.

Joel Harvin, an Enterprise resident, asked the commissioners why

only property owners would be taxed. He noted that many of the county's registered voters do not own property within the county.

Commissioners heard several other suggestions on how to raise money for courthouse construction. Raising marriage license fees plus other fees, additional tax on car tags, and grants were among the suggestions offered.

While only sixteen of the more than seventy residents in attendance addressed the commission, indications were that their comments reflected the general feelings of the entire group.

"READ MY LIPS - NO MORE NEW TAXES"

Horace Windham

A clear majority of the group favored the construction of one courthouse for Coffee County. They further agreed that it would be logical to build the courthouse in a more central location than either Enterprise or Elba.

It was suggested to the commission that New Brockton, where many of the county's offices - including the new county jail - are located, would be an ideal site for a new courthouse.

The county owns enough land in New Brockton to build a facility large enough to house all county offices. Plus the courts could be housed there too. Presently many county officials staff two separate offices - one in the Enterprise Courthouse and one in the Elba Courthouse.

It was explained to the group that the commissioners can not authorize the construction of one courthouse.

According to Stephens, in order to construct one courthouse, a petition signed by one more than half the registered voters in Coffee County has to be presented to the Governor. An estimated 10,478 signatures would be needed.

The Governor would then call a special election giving the people the opportunity to vote on where the county seat - one courthouse - is to be located. A specific place has to be named on the ballot.

Both former Coffee County Probate Judge James Sawyer and retired Enterprise Ledger Publisher Roy Schoffner noted that this had been attempted fourteen years ago and failed.

Other persons in attendance noted that times have changed and they feel that county residents are ready to do the most economical thing and abolish the two courthouses - two division system and unit as one.

Commissioner Lawrence Creel commented that he felt the commission should delay the tax vote until it could be decided whether or not one courthouse could be built and where.

A New Brockton resident, Dan Heath, commented, "I think it's time for the people of Coffee County to come together as one people."

Robert Davis of Elba stated that as long as the county maintains two courthouses, this problem will come up again and again. He favors one courthouse located in New Brockton.

After about two hours, the hearing concluded with very little discussion centering around the proposed tax.

Commissioners left Friday's hearing concerned about what should be done concerning the tax but all agreed that a decision will have to be made. Regardless of what they decide, the county will still have to make the necessary repairs to the Enterprise Courthouse to ensure the safety of those working in and visiting the facility.

A special meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 5, to make a decision on the matter.

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FORMER PROBATE JUDGE JAMES L. SAWYER...addressed those in attendance at Friday's public hearing on a proposed new property tax to fund a new courthouse in Enterprise and an addition to the present Elba Courthouse. When the question of building one courthouse for Coffee County, Sawyer read to the group the requirements that have to be met in order to move the county seat and construct one courthouse.

Commission goes ahead with tax proposal

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

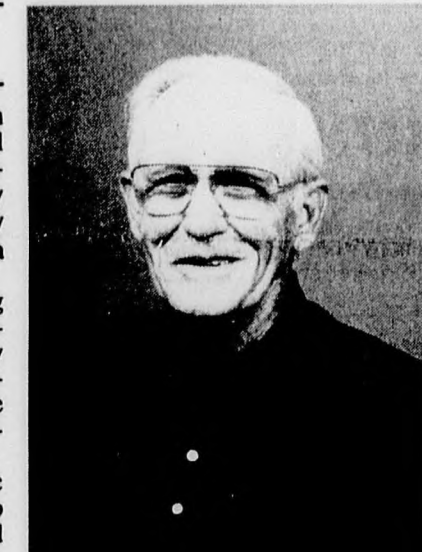
The Coffee County Commission met in special session Monday, April 5, to vote on whether or not to increase the county's property taxes by 3 1/2 mills. The funds generated by the tax are to be used to construct a new courthouse in Enterprise.

As part of the decision making process, the commission held a public hearing on the matter last Friday to hear public comments on the issue. What they heard was "no more new taxes" and "build one courthouse."

In meeting prior to the public hearing, the commission voted to seek a local referendum to be held on May 18, but that was changed to May 25 in Monday's meeting.

The original question was to be whether or not the voters of Coffee County would approve a 3 1/2 mill increase in property taxes to fund a new courthouse in Enterprise and an addition to the Elba Courthouse; however, in Monday's meeting this was changed.

Commissioner Sid Averett made a motion that local legislators, State Representative Jimmy Holley and



COMM. SID AVERETT

AVERETT ADVISES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN STEPHENS TO "CALL OFF HIS DOGS...CHANCE OF LOSING YOUR COURTHOUSE"

Commissioner Sid Averett made a motion that local legislators, State Representative Jimmy Holley and

State Senator Crum Foshee, present to the State Legislature a bill which would allow a referendum on the tax issue.

The date for the referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25.

In his motion, Averett stated that the monies generated by the additional tax would be used to construct a new courthouse in Enterprise ONLY. No mention was made of an addition to the Elba Courthouse as was stated in the original motion made in the March 22 commission meeting.

In Monday's meeting, Commission Chairman Robert Stephens tried unsuccessfully to get Averett's motion amended to once again include an annex to the courthouse in Elba.

Voting for the motion were: Commissioners Averett, Bernest Brooks, Jack Hanson, and Bill Faulk. Voting against were: Commissioners Wendell Black, Lawrence Creel and Stephens.

Stephens stated that he was originally for allowing the people to vote on the tax issue but with the motion as passed - omitting the annex to the Elba Courthouse - he could no longer vote to support the measure.

Averett commented that he was not totally against improvements being made to the Elba Courthouse but not at this time.

He told Stephens, "It seems that quite a few of our citizens want one courthouse. That's up to them. I'm staying out of that fight. My advice to you, if I was capable of giving any advice, is to call off your dogs, sit tight, and don't take a chance of losing your courthouse."

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Commissioner Sid Averett made a motion that local legislators, State Representative Jimmy Holley and

Hanchey's termination hearing continues

by Ferrin Cox
Publisher

Continuation of the termination hearing for former police chief Freddie Hanchey was scheduled for Wednesday, April 7 (yesterday) after press deadline of *The Elba Clipper*.

The possibility of the hearing ever resuming was undecided officially until Tuesday afternoon of this week due to a letter written last week by Elba Mayor Ricky Haywood.

The letter, dated March 30, said Haywood wasn't going to convene a hearing on April 7th or any other date.

Addressed to City Attorney Mark Vaughan, with copies to all council members, Hanchey, his attorney Mike Jared, Haywood's personal attorney Bill Stokes and Attorney G. A. Lindsey, the letter read as follows:

"It is my opinion that I have given Freddie Hanchey reasonable time for a termination hearing. The termination hearing turned into a mock trial, as initiated by Hanchey's attorney. I have done all that I intend to do as far as Hanchey's hearing."

ing. I do not intend to convene a hearing on April 7th or any other date."

Vaughan, who served as moderator for the first part of the hearing, had been previously instructed by Haywood and the City Council to work out a time to reconvene the hearing, as prescribed by Alabama law and requested in writing by the city's liability insurance carrier.

A \$750,000 claim has been filed against the City of Elba by attorney Mike Jared on behalf of Hanchey, claiming wrongful discharge.

The claim could become a lawsuit if not settled to the satisfaction of the claimants. As such, the suit for damages could be against the City of Elba and against the mayor and members of the council as individuals.

Working with Jared, Vaughan had already tentatively set the April 7th date before receiving Haywood's letter.

A check, on Monday, by this newspaper with the others who participated in the first part of the hearing indicated most planned to attend the 9 a.m. Wednesday continuation as scheduled. Included were Hanchey and Jared and at least the majority of the city council.

The main item of business on Monday's agenda was to approve Ordinance #93-004 dealing with city court.

According to Linda Dillow, city clerk, the new ordinance is for the purpose of updating the city's court system with current state laws.

The ordinance will adopt certain elements of Alabama's Criminal Code and establish punishment for ordinance violations.

Council members approved the adoption of the new ordinance and it will become effective 20th May 5, 1993 after proper notification is given to the public.

A request for a loading zone in front of one of the town's businesses was brought before the council by council member Clinton Marler. After several minutes of discussion, which was mostly against the establishing of loading zones, the council decided to table the matter.

The council requested that Marler ask the business owner to appear in person so that the matter could be discussed with them.

After a brief pro and con discussion on banning smoking in all parts of city hall and city owned vehicles, the council voted to allow things to

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Tuesday afternoon City Clerk Jeff Goodson said the hearing would continue on Wednesday morning as scheduled. He added that everyone would be present except Mayor Haywood and probably council member Earl McCollough.

McCollough had a conflict due to son having surgery Wednesday, Goodson explained.

ELBA CITY COUNCIL
MEETS MONDAY,
APRIL 12, 1993

New Brockton's council meeting routine

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

New Brockton's regular monthly council meeting was held Monday night and conducted, more or less, routine business.

Minutes for two previous special called meetings, March 23 and March 24, as well as the March regular meeting on March 1 were approved by the council.

The Mayor Kathryn Holley told council members that she and Chief Charles Driggers were already in the process of obtaining the necessary information so that bid requests could be sent to dealers.

Councilman Cole also commended not only the police department but members of the fire department and rescue squad for their quick response to emergencies.

"The cars that the police officers drive are sick," Cole said. He noted that repair bills are running extremely high. Last year, the bills totalled more than \$7,000.00 on two cars.

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remain as they are. Smoking is forbidden only in the council's meeting room in city hall.

Councilman Charles Cole recommended that the council that the purchasing of new police vehicles should seriously be considered.

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in New Brockton takes affect on May 1st.

After a brief discussion concerning annual leave time and sick days for the police chief, it was decided that the mayor would look at other towns' policies concerning this matter.

NOTICE
A LEGAL NOTICE ON COURTHOUSE/TAX APPEARS ON PAGE 7 OF THIS NEWSPAPER

Please See NBCC, Page 2

* * HAPPENINGS * *

MISS COFFEE COUNTY PAGEANT. A Miss Coffee County and Little Miss Coffee County Pageant will be held 7:00 p.m. Saturday, May 15, 1993, at the Elba High School Auditorium. The pageant is being sponsored by the Elba P.T.O. For additional information, contact Carol Laney, pageant chairman at 897-5277.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT. There will be a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt in the New Brockton Town Park on Saturday, April 10, 1993, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

CLEAN-UP DAY IN. New Brockton's Annual Clean-Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m. All citizens are being asked to clean up their neighborhoods on this date. For further information contact city hall at 894-5550.

RESCUE SQUAD DRIVE. The Elba Rescue Squad's annual fund-raising drive will begin on Monday, April 12th. The squad is asking for a \$20 donation from each household. In return, a complimentary 10x13 family portrait can be obtained from Quality Productions. Representatives from the portrait company will be contacting Elba citizens in the near future. They will have proper identification. If anyone has any doubts as to the person's identity, call the Elba Police Department at 897-2555.



LOCAL BANKS SUPPORT D.A.R.E. PROGRAM... by making donation. Shown above is D.A.R.E. Officer Dean Blair (center) accepting two \$200 checks from Henna Grimes (right) of The Peoples Bank and Barry Giles (left) of SouthTrust. The money will be used to purchase D.A.R.E. t-shirts for the Elba Elementary 6th grade students who will be graduating from the D.A.R.E. program in May. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

HENDRICKS HOME CENTER

677 VISE-GRIP

7 in. Locking Plier
Locking plier features secure lock with easy release trigger. Choose straight or curved jaw. 21705-07

277

Water Blaster
All steel body adjusts from garden hose to full stream spray. Throttle trigger for effective events. 74849

1388

10 Pc. Combination Wrench Set
Popular size wrenches are heat treated for strength and durability. Rust-resistant chrome plating. Choose standard or metric. Full lifetime warranty. 26135-36

2999

5 Gal. Wet/Dry Vac
1.35 peak HP motor vacuums wet or dry...indoors or out. Durable and rust resistant plastic for long life. 21912

397

Simple Green
Biodegradable and non-toxic cleaner and degreaser. Includes trigger sprayer. 32 oz. 81227

1588

Drop Spreader
Corrosion-proof poly spreader holds 70 lbs. and has a 20' spread path. 70366

4499

7 1/4 in. Circular Saw
Built-in quality and performance. Powerful, high torque 2 1/4 HP motor, 4600 RPM. Convenient blade wrench storage. 22212

988

Entry Lock
Bright polished brass finish, tylo knob design. Thumb turn inside, key lock outside. Easy to install. 52711

1088

Single Deadlock
Strong, single cylinder 1" deadbolt with polished brass finish. 54350

4 store locations to better serve you!

Troy
1007 S. Brundidge St.
566-7800
Mon. - Fri. 7 to 6
Sat. 7 to 5

OZARK
208 N. Union St.
774-5192
Mon. - Fri. 7 to 6
Sat. 7 to 5

Eufaula
Hwy. 431 N.
687-6660
Mon. - Sat. 7 to 6
Sun. 1 to 5

MONTGOMERY
6200 Atlanta Hwy.
277-1119
Mon. - Sat. 8 to 6
Sun. 1 to 5

NOTICE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF MERCHANDISE AND PRICES: Prices in this advertisement are those suggested by manufacturer and are subject to change without notice. Some items may be on special order and may not be available in all stores. Some items may be discontinued without notice. Some items may be discontinued without notice. Some items may be discontinued without notice. Some items may be discontinued without notice.

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